

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

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NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PINS, MOPS, MORG, MPOL, GV

SUBJECT: GUINEAN MILITARY PREPARATIONS ON SENEGALESE BORDER

1. NON-AMERICAN WESTERN SOURCE WHO VISITED GUINEAN-
SENEGALESE BORDER AREA NORTH OF MALI CITY NEAR GAMBIA
RIVER FEBRUARY 12-13 OBSERVED EXTENSIVE GUINEAN
MILITARY DEFENSE MEASURES.

2. PENETRATING ALONG MALI-TO-BORDER ROAD AND BUSH TRACKS
TO WITHIN 15 MILES OF BORDER JUST WEST OF POINT
WHERE GAMBIA RIVER FLOWS INTO SENEGAL, SOURCE NOTED
MILITARY ENCAMPMENTS RANGING FROM A FEW HUTS TO 200-
MAN BARRACKS, EVERY 10 MILES OR SO. SOURCE ENCOUNTERED
FOUR MILITARY CHECKPOINTS. HE OBSERVED
MILITARY TRUCKS AND BUSES BEING USED INSTEAD OF
NORMAL CIVIL TRANSPORT, AND SAW SIX TANKS, ONE
HEAVILY ARMED HALF-TRACK, AND ONE RADIO COMMAND CAR
(RUSSIAN-BUILT JEEP). SOLDIERS WERE MOSTLY ARMED WITH AK-47'S.
SOME POSSIBLY MILITARY "HUNTER" BANDS WERE IN CIVILIAN
DRESS ARMED WITH 12-GAUGE SHOTGUNS AND, UNLIKE "HUNTERS"
ELSEWHERE IN GUINEA, WORE WELL-FILLED AMMO BELTS. SOURCE
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NOTED ROCKET-LAUNCHERS OR GUN EMPLACEMENTS ON TWO
PROMINENT HILLTOPS WITH GOOD VISIBILITY AND FIELD OF FIRE
TOWARD SENEGAL BORDER. SOURCE, WHO SPEAKS FLUENT SPANISH,
ENCOUNTERED SEVERAL GUINEAN SOLDIERS WHO SAID THEY HAD
BEEN TRAINED IN CUBA AND TWO OTHER INDIVIDUALS, POSSIBLY
CUBAN INSTRUCTORS OR CADRES, WHO SPOKE PERFECT SPANISH.
SOLDIERS INDICATED TO SOURCE THAT THEIR MILITARY PREPARA-

TIONS WERE MEANT TO DETER OR REPEL ANY EXPECTED SENEGALESE OR MERCENARY INCURSIONS AGAINST GUINEAN TERRITORY. SOURCE DID NOT HEAR THAT ANY SUCH INCURSIONS HAD TAKEN PLACE. BORDER AREA SEEMED IN OBVIOUS SEMI-ALERT POSTURE. DIRT ROADS NEAR BORDER WERE BETTER THAN AVERAGE -- TO TAKE TANKS OR HEAVY EQUIPMENT -- AND HAD BEEN OBVIOUSLY IMPROVED BY GRADERS AND BULLDOZERS, UNLIKE USUAL GUINEAN BUSH TRACKS. SOLDIERS AT ONE ENCAMPMENT ATTEMPTED TO BEG RICE FROM SOURCE AND STATED USUAL RATION WAS ONE WEEK LATE. EXCEPT FOR BEING WELL ARMED, SOLDIERS APPEARED VERY POORLY HOUSED, FED, AND CLOTHED.

3. COMMENT: THIS BORDER PICTURE IS ABOUT WHAT MIGHT BE EXPECTED IN WAKE OF NEW AND WILD GOG ACCUSATIONS THAT SENGHOR IS PREPARING A "MERCENARY" AGGRESSION AGAINST GUINEA. FORCE POSTURE SEEMED DEFENSIVE, NOT OFFENSIVE, TO SOURCE.
HARROP

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